

# Land Consolidation as Vehicle for Implementation of VGGTs and SDGs

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## SUMMARY

Land reforms were at the beginning of transition after 1989 high on the political agenda in most Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) countries. In some countries, land reforms resulted in a complete break-up of the large scale collective and state farms while in other countries the farm structures fundamentally remain the same. In many countries in the region, land reforms have resulted in farm structures dominated by small and fragmented farms which are not competitive in the globalized economy.

So far 21 out of 25 CEE countries have introduced land consolidation instruments to address the structural problems with small farm sizes and excessive land fragmentation. Seven of the countries already have ongoing national land consolidation programmes while land consolidation instruments have been introduced in further 14 countries, which not yet have an operational program. FAO has for the past 15 years played an important role in supporting the introduction of land consolidation in the region through a range of activities including the preparation of policy guidelines, implementing field projects, often including development of strategies and pilot projects, and with its partners organized 17 regional workshops during 2002-2016.

The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) have after they were endorsed in 2012 provided guidance to the development of land consolidation. At the same time, the support on land consolidation provided by FAO to the countries is contributing to the implementation of the VGGTs in the region.

The UN 2030 Agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) sets the framework of seventeen aspirational global goals with 169 targets aimed to end poverty, fight inequality and

injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Secure land tenure rights and good governance of tenure will play an important role in achieving the global goals.

The paper explores the experiences of FAO with the implementation of the VGGTs and discusses the future opportunities for contributing to the implementation of the SDGs through support on land consolidation to the countries in the region.

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